

Serial No. 09/630,402
Attorney Docket No.: 006593-1874
Amendment

IN THE CLAIMS:

A full listing of the pending claims in this application, including any amendments made by this paper, follows below:

1. (Withdrawn)
2. (Previously Amended) The slicer of claim 21 wherein said rod is a threaded rod, and said member is a nut threaded onto said threaded rod.
3. (Previously Amended) The slicer of claim 21 wherein said pulley is located adjacent to said anchor component which has an opening formed therein, and wherein said rod extends through said opening.
4. (Previously Amended) The slicer of claim 3 wherein said anchor component is a wall.
5. (Previously Amended) The slicer of claim 3 wherein said spring is located between said member and said anchor component.
6. (Currently Amended) The slicer of claim 3 wherein said spacer is located between and in contact with said member and said anchor component.
7. (Previously Amended) The slicer of claim 3 wherein said first direction is towards said anchor component.
8. (Currently Amended) The slicer of claim 3 wherein said spring, said spacer, and said member are located on a first side of said anchor component, and wherein ~~the device~~

Serial No. 09/630,402
Attorney Docket No.: 006593-1874
Amendment

~~further comprises a lock nut~~ said locking component is located on a second side of said anchor component to secure said threaded rod in place.

9. (Previously Amended) The slicer of claim 21 wherein said rod extends through said spring.

10. (Previously Amended) The slicer of claim 21 wherein said rod slidably extends through said spacer.

11. (Previously Amended) The slicer of claim 21 wherein said spacer receives said spring therein.

12. (Previously Amended) The slicer of claim 21 wherein said pulley is pivotally mounted such that advancement of said member in said first direction causes said spring to be compressed, which in turn causes said pulley to be pivoted and the tension in said belt to thereby be increased.

13. (Previously Amended) The slicer of claim 21 further comprising an arm having a first end and a second end, said first end being coupled to said rod and said second end being coupled to said pulley.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Withdrawn)

16-18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) A slicer comprising:

a slicer body having an anchor component;
a rotatable blade coupled to said slicer body;
a reciprocal tray for bringing a food product into and out of contact with said blade;

a motor for driving said blade, said motor being ~~pivotal~~ pivotably mounted with respect to said slicer body and having an output pulley operatively connected to said blade by a belt and wherein said anchor component remains fixed when said motor pivots; and

a belt tensioning device for said motor such that a said belt ~~passed around said output pulley~~ is tightenable to a predetermined tension, the belt tensioning device including a threaded rod operatively coupled to said motor, said rod being located adjacent said anchor component, a an adjustment nut threaded onto said threaded rod, a spring located adjacent said adjustment nut that exerts a reactive force against said adjustment nut when said adjustment nut is threaded in a first direction along said rod toward said anchor component to cause said motor to pivot, ~~and~~ a spacer which interacts with said adjustment nut and said anchor component to limit advancement of said adjustment nut in said first direction and a lock nut threaded on said rod, wherein ~~said anchor component remains fixed when said motor pivots,~~ when said belt is tightened to said predetermined tension said lock nut and said adjustment nut are positioned so that movement of said threaded rod is prevented and said spacer is rigidly trapped between said adjustment nut and said anchor component.

20. (Withdrawn).

21. (Currently Amended) A slicer comprising:

a slicer body having an anchor component;
a rotatable blade coupled to said slicer body;
a reciprocal tray for bringing a food product into and out of contact with said

blade;

a motor for driving said blade, said motor being ~~pivetable~~ pivotably mounted with respect to said slicer body and having an output pulley operatively connected to said blade by a belt and wherein said anchor component remains fixed when said motor pivots; and

a belt tensioning device for said motor such that a said belt ~~passed around said output pulley~~ is tightenable to a predetermined tension, the belt tensioning device including a rod operatively coupled to said pulley, a member coupled to and movable along said rod, a spring that exerts a reactive force against said member when said member is moved in a first direction along said rod toward said anchor component, ~~and~~ a spacer which interacts with said member and said anchor component to limit advancement of said member in said first direction and a locking member coupled to said rod, and wherein ~~said anchor component remains fixed when said motor pivots~~ when said belt is tightened to said predetermined tension said locking member and said member are positioned so that movement of said rod is prevented and said spacer is rigidly trapped between said member and said anchor component.

22. (Canceled).

23. (Previously Presented) The slicer of claim 21 wherein said spring is a coil spring.

24. (Previously Presented) The slicer of claim 21 wherein said spacer is trapped between said anchor component and said member when said spacer limits the advancement of said member in said first direction.

25-27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently Amended) A slicer comprising:

a slicer body including an anchor component;

Serial No. 09/630,402
Attorney Docket No.: 006593-1874
Amendment

a rotatable blade coupled to said slicer body;
a reciprocal tray for bringing a food product into and out of contact with said blade;

a motor for driving said blade, said motor being ~~pivotal~~ pivotably mounted with respect to said slicer body and having an output pulley operatively connected to said blade by a belt; and

a belt tensioning device for said motor such that a said belt ~~passed around said output pulley~~ is tightenable to a predetermined tension, the belt tensioning device including a rod operatively coupled to said pulley, a member coupled to and movable along said rod, a spring that exerts a reactive force against said member when said member is moved in a first direction along said rod toward said anchor component, ~~and~~ a spacer which interacts with said member to limit advancement of said member in said first direction and a locking member coupled to said rod, wherein said spacer slidably receives said rod therethrough, when said belt is tightened to said predetermined tension said locking member and said member are positioned so that movement of said rod is prevented and said spacer is rigidly trapped between said member and said anchor component.

29. (Previously Presented) The slicer of claim 28 wherein said spacer receives said spring therein.

30. (Currently Amended) A slicer comprising:
a slicer body including an anchor component;
a rotatable blade coupled to said slicer body;
a reciprocal tray for bringing a food product into and out of contact with said blade;
a motor for driving said blade, said motor being ~~pivotal~~ pivotably mounted to said slicer body and having an output pulley operatively connected to said blade by a belt; and

a belt tensioning device for said motor such that a said belt ~~passed around said output pulley being~~ is tightenable to a predetermined tension, the belt tensioning device including a rod operatively coupled to said pulley, a member coupled to and movable along said rod, a spring component that exerts a reactive force against said member when said member is moved in a first direction along said rod toward said anchor component, said spring component being compressed in a direction parallel to the movement of said member when said member is moved in said first direction to exert said reactive force, ~~and~~ a spacer which interacts with said member to limit advancement of said member in said first direction and a locking member coupled to said rod, wherein when said belt is tightened to said predetermined tension said locking member and said member are positioned so that movement of said rod is prevented and said spacer is rigidly trapped between said member and said anchor component.

31. (New) A slicer comprising:

- a slicer body having a stationary anchor component;
- a rotatable blade coupled to said slicer body;
- a reciprocal tray for bringing a food product into and out of contact with said blade;
- a motor mounted for pivoting movement relative to said slicer body, wherein said motor drives an output pulley operatively connected to said blade and wherein said output pulley pivots with said motor; and
- a belt tensioning system associated with said motor such that a belt passed around said output pulley is in a tensioned state, said belt tensioning system including:
 - a rod operatively coupled to said motor;
 - a first locking member, a spacer and a spring associated with said rod and located on a first side of said stationary anchor component, and a second locking member associated with said rod and located on said second side of said stationary anchor component, wherein said first locking member and said spacer interact with said rod and said stationary

Serial No. 09/630,402
Attorney Docket No.: 006593-1874
Amendment

anchor component to prevent movement of said rod toward a second side of said stationary anchor component, wherein said second locking member interacts with said rod and said stationary anchor component to prevent movement of said rod toward said first side of said stationary anchor component, and wherein said spring is in a compressed and stationary state between said first locking member and said stationary anchor component.

32 (New) The slicer of claim 31 wherein said spring is disposed around said rod and within said spacer.